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THE MORAVIANS

AND THEIR MISSIONS.

THE "LONDON ASSOCIATION" was formed in 1817 by friends of the Brethren, who are not in Church-fellowship with them, and has been instrumental, through the blessing of God, not only in helping to preserve the Missions then in operation, but in enabling the Brethren greatly to extend their sphere of labour.

THE COMMITTEE feel sure that a much larger amount of Christian sympathy and help would be extended to the devoted Missions of the "United Brethren" than has been hitherto given, if a correct impression on the subject of this Church's history and character were more generally entertained, and a more widespread knowledge existed of the wonders that God hath wrought through its instrumentality amongst the most barbarous of Heathen nations.

The Church of the "United Brethren" (commonly called Moravians) was formed, *under its present name*, in 1457, out of the wreck of the Bohemian Church, after the martyrdom of John Huss, and about sixty years before the Reformation. The Bohemian Church had received the doctrine of the primitive Church about the middle of the *ninth* century, having obtained it from one of the Slavonic Churches, where it existed from a very early period of the Christian era. Those members of the Bohemian Church who entertained the same

views of Divine truth as John Huss were, soon after his martyrdom, driven by persecution to the mountains of Moravia and Silesia, where, under the name of "United Brethren," they resolved (in 1467) to perpetuate the Protestant doctrine and Episcopal Constitution of the Church of their forefathers—and such was their Missionary zeal, in the face of the greatest oppression and persecution, that at the beginning of the 16th century, they had Churches in almost every town and village in Moravia and Bohemia.

The last remnant of the Church in Moravia that survived the horrible persecutions of the 17th century, fled for refuge to Saxony in 1722;—and in ten years, though but a small company (scarcely 600) and destitute of pecuniary means, they set the first example to the Churches of Christ, of preaching the Gospel to the nations, by establishing *their Missions to the Heathen.*

The first Missionaries, with but a few shillings in their pockets, travelled on foot to Copenhagen in 1732 and 1733, and embarked thence for the West Indies and Greenland. In the first *nine* years they had commenced *eight* missions to heathen tribes, and *fifteen* years after their missions were *sixteen* in number—bringing the glad tidings of Salvation to the Negroes, Hottentots, Esquimaux, Greenlanders, and American Indians,—and not only

does their work expand in these Missions, but new fields are from time to time entered upon by the Brethren as God gives them opportunity.

Though many fall a sacrifice to the climates, there never yet has been a lack of labourers well adapted for the work; indeed, so great is the Missionary spirit poured out on this Church, that about *one in sixty* of its adult members becomes a Missionary to the Heathen.

Missions to the *Moskito Indians* have been established since 1848, and are being much blessed.

A Mission to the *Aborigines* of *Australia* has yielded good fruit; there are now two congregations composed of 111 Native Christians, of whom 30 are Communicants. The Brethren have also commenced one on the borders of *Tibet*, and hope thereby not only to reach that province but also the *Mongols*, who wander over Chinese Tartary. They maintain a station at Kyelang, in Lahoul, as a base of operations, and are preaching to the Buddhist inhabitants around them. A *second* Station is situated close to the border of Tibet Proper, and a *third* has been opened at Leh, the capital of the Tibetan Province of Ladak. The New Testament is translated into Tibetan, and, together with tracts in this language, is being extensively circulated.

With *Labrador* (where the cold is not unfrequently 30 degrees, and sometimes 40 degrees, below zero of Fahrenheit, or from 62 degrees to 72 degrees below the point where water freezes), the Missionary ship, at present the fourth *Harmony*, has for more than a hundred years been almost the sole means of communication, conveying once in each year provisions, letters, &c., from this country.

The newest endeavour of the Brethren is to plant the standard of he Cross in Western Alaska.

In most departments of the Mission the call to extend the work is urgent—especially the work of *education* in *Jamaica* and other *West Indian Islands*. In the former Island, owing to the parents settling in distant places, and to their poverty, thousands of the children of Moravian and other Negroes are deprived of instruction. The Brethren have been enabled, by special aid from this country, to open Country-Schools in *Jamaica*, *Barbados*, and *St. Kitt's*, containing about 3,000 children at the cost, per school, of £10 to £20 per annum.

The entire annual cost of the Mission is about £50,000, of which £18,000 only represent the sum raised from home sources, the balance comprising the contributions of Native Churches, Government Grants for Schools, Interest of Endowment-funds, and the proceeds of industrial enterprises carried

on for the benefit of the Mission and the elevation of the native populations.

Numerical Statistics of Missions, 1886 :—

	Stations.	*In Congregations.*
Greenland	6	1,550
Labrador	6	1,263
North American Indians	3	276
British and Danish West Indies	47	37,948
South America—Surinam and Demerara	20	26,172
Central America—Moskito Coast	8	2,834
South Africa	21	12,273
Australia	2	119
N.W. India—Tibet	3	27
Alaska	1	
* *Above* 40,000 *are British Subjects.*	117	*82,462

There are 319 European and Native Missionaries employed in the various fields, 17,671 Scholars are under instruction in 217 Day Schools, and about 14,000 Scholars in 91 Sunday Schools.

The parent Church numbers only about one-third of the converts gathered by her instrumentality from among the Heathen, and is consequently dependent on other communities of Christians for a great part of the funds requisite to

support this extensive work, and for the erection of Churches and Schools.

The Directing Board of the Moravian Missions is appointed by the General Synod of the Moravian Church, and has its headquarters at Berthelsdorf, near Herrnhut, in Saxony. The sums collected by the London Association are forwarded to this Board, of whom the Rev. B. La TROBE is the representative in England.

The Committee earnestly request from Ministers the privilege of bringing this great work before their congregations, by sermons and meetings, and from the Church of Christ generally aid in helping this small Church to carry on her labours of love, by Donations and Subscriptions, which may be paid to the Treasurer, at Messrs. HERRIES, FARQUHAR and Co., St. James' Street, W.; to Messrs. SMITHS and Co., Lombard Street; to Messrs. WILLIAMS, DEACON and Co., Birchin Lane; to THE CITY BANK, Holborn Branch; or to Mr. G. E. ROBERTS, at the Office,

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